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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04470 151516Z

51 S
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07

INRE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 SS-15 /037 W
---------- 016543
O 151500Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4084

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4470

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS ET US
SUBJECT: SCHEDULING OF IMPENDING MAC AND MARENGO MIMI
FLIGHTS TO ADDIS

REF: AMBASSADOR HUMMEL/AF/E DIRECTOR COOTE SECURE
TELECON APRIL 15; ADDIS 3686 AND 4144

1. MY CONVERSATION TODAY (APRIL 15) WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BANTI, WHICH IS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY, REVEALED GRAVEST CONCERN WITHIN DIRG OVER SIGNIFICANCE OF DELAY IN US AMMO REPLENISHMENT FLIGHTS AND STRONG DISPOSITION TO MISREAD IT. I THEREFORE CONSIDER IT IMPERATIVE TO CARRY OUT THIS REPLENISHMENT OPERATION AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, DOING NOTHING LIKELY TO DISRUPT OR DELAY SCHEDULED DELIVERIES OF ANY TYPE.

2. THE COMPLEXITY OF THE LOGISTIC SYSTEM BEHIND BOTH MAC AND MARENGO MIMI FLIGHTS BEING WHAT IT IS, ATTEMPTS TO FINE-TUNE DELIVERY SCHEDULES AT THIS LATE DATE MOST LIKELY WILL SNARL PROJECT FURTHER. POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF SPACING OUT (WHICH ARE MINIMAL) WOULD NOT, IN MY JUDGMENT OR THAT OF MISSION, COMPENSATE FOR EXACERBATION OF DAMAGE ALREADY SUFFERED AS RESULT OF DELAYS ENCOUNTERED TO DATE AND WOULD FURTHER DELAY COMPLETION OF AIRLIFT WHICH IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE BEHIND US.

3. AS EMBASSY HAS STATED IN REFTELS, EMPHASIS HAS SHIFTED TO EARLIEST COMPLETION AMMO REPLENISHMENT DELIVERIES, AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY FLIGHTS CANNOT ARRIVE DAILY, OR WHY MORE THAN ONE
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AIRCRAFT CANNOT BE HANDLED IN GIVEN DAY.

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4. IN SUM, US INTEREST IS TO GET AMMO IN QUICKLY. I RECOMMEND
THAT NOTHING BE DONE THAT WOULD AGAIN DELAY OR STRETCH OUT ITS
ARRIVAL. ALL ELEMENTS OF MISSION DIRECTLY CONCERNED CONCUR WITH
THIS JUDGMENT.
HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. TANNER.

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